Bhutan remain in constant touch to find a solution to this issue and are cooperating with each other in this regard. The Government of Bhutan have reiterated that they would not allow their territory to be misused against the interests of India.

The Government of India has been regularly taking up with Bangladesh various security related matters including cross-border terrorism and activities of Indian insurgents in Bangladesh at different levels through diplomatic channels and institutional mechanisms existing between the two countries. The subject was discussed during the India-Bangladesh Home Secretary-level talks held in New Delhi in April 2000. The Bangladesh side assured the Indian side that they would not allow undesirable elements to use Bangladesh territory for activities prejudicial to the security interests of India.

Redefining relationship with Nepal

3338. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a strong move in Nepal for redefining its relations with India;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Government of Nepal has been insisting upon a review of the friendship treaty of 1950 between India and Nepal;

(c) if so the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any proposal for the review for abrogation of the aforesaid has been received formally from the Nepalese Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) In recent years, there has been a tendency among certain elements in Nepal to attempt to raise popular sentiments on issues related to India-Nepal relations through the media and public posturing. However, given the essential stability and permanence of the relationship, such attempts by vested interests are unlikely to affect the friendly ties existing between the two countries.

(b) to (e) The 1950 Treaty of Peace and Friendship was concluded with the objective of formalising the close relations between the two countries. The

Treaty symbolises the unique relations between India and Nepal and reflects the historical, geographical, cultural and linguistic links between the two nations. The 1950 Treaty is a balanced document and has served both sides well for five decades.

His Majesty's Government of Nepal has put forth a proposal to discuss and review the 1950 Treaty. It has been agreed that the Foreign Secretaries of the two countries would undertake a review of all issues pertaining to the 1950 Treaty, as part of their regular bilateral consultations.

Indo-Nepal relationship

3339. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister of Nepal had visited India early this month;

(b) if so, the avowed purpose of his visit;

(c) the main problems affecting Indo-Nepalese relationship raised by him; and

(d) whether India's security concerns in the context of last year plane hijack and the growing anti- Indian activities by the Pakistan's ISI were conveyed to him and if so, with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) The Prime Minister of Nepal, Mr. G.P. Koirala, paid an official goodwill visit to India from July 31 to August 6, 2000 at the invitation of the Prime Minister of India. He was accompanied by the Foreign Minister of Nepal, Mr. Chakra Prasad Bastola and senior officials of His Majesty's Government of Nepal.

A Joint Press Statement issued on August 3,2000 at the conclusion of his official engagements in New Delhi highlighted the wide-ranging discussion on bilateral issues of mutual concern and the decisions taken to further strengthen the close and friendly relations between the two countries. A copy of the Joint Press Statement is given in the Table *(see* below).

(d) Our security concerns about the increasing evidence of ISI misusing Nepalese territory for anti- India activities were discussed with the Prime Minister of Nepal. The two Governments agreed to devise effective modalities and measures to strengthen their existing cooperation with regard to the management